



## 2020-2021 State of New Jersey Energy Assistance Programs

The State of New Jersey offers several utility assistance programs for households in need. Eligibility for each program is tiered by income. Please find guidance on each program below.

	<b>USF<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>LIHEAP</b>	<b>PAGE</b>	<b>Lifeline</b>
<b>Utility Type:</b>	Gas and electricity	All heating fuel types and medically necessary cooling	Gas and electricity	Gas and electricity <b>only</b> for low-income senior citizens & disabled
<b>Household Size</b>	<b>Income Range</b>	<b>Income Range</b>	<b>Income Range<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Household Type<sup>3</sup></b>
<b>1</b>	\$0 - \$23,606	\$0 - \$25,520	\$25,532- \$64,192	<b>SINGLE</b> \$0 - \$28,398
<b>2</b>	\$0 - \$31,894	\$0 - \$34,480	\$34,492- \$83,943	
<b>3</b>	\$0 - \$40,182	\$0 - \$43,440	\$43,452- \$104,362	<b>MARRIED</b> \$0 - \$34,816
<b>4</b>	\$0 - \$48,470	\$0 - \$52,400	\$52,412- \$123,430	
<b>5</b>	\$0 - \$56,758	\$0 - \$61,360	\$61,372- \$143,198	
<b>6</b>	\$0 - \$65,046	\$0 - \$70,320	\$70,332- \$162,950	
<b>7</b>	\$0 - \$73,334	\$0 - \$79,280	\$79,292- \$166,631	
<b>8</b>	\$0 - \$81,622	\$0 - \$88,240	\$88,252- \$170,333	
<b>When are income limits updated?</b>	October 1	October 1	October 1	
<b>Capped at:</b>	<b>\$1,800 per year for gas and electricity combined</b>	<b>Cap varies based on fuel type, household size and county</b>	<b>\$750 per utility for gas and electricity</b>	<b>\$225 per year for gas and electricity combined</b>

<sup>1</sup> If a household is income-eligible for USF, the household is also automatically income-eligible for LIHEAP.

<sup>2</sup> USF, LIHEAP, and PAGE typically use the most recent four weeks of household income to determine eligibility. The PAGE monthly income floor is \$1 over the LIHEAP monthly income limit, so that there are no income gaps between programs.

<sup>3</sup> The Lifeline program only differentiates between married and single, not household size.

### UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND (USF)

The Universal Service Fund (USF) is a state-funded program that helps **low-income households** pay for their electric and natural gas utility bill costs. To be eligible for USF, your household must: 1) Be income eligible, and; 2) Spend more than 3% of household income on gas and/or electricity (or more than 6% of household income on electric heating). USF can be reached by calling 800-510-3102 (or 877-652-1148 for rotary phones or out-of-state callers). Starting on October 1, 2020, you can apply online, via email, print an application, or find an application agency near you by visiting [www.energyassistance.nj.gov](http://www.energyassistance.nj.gov).

*USF was created by NJBPU and is administered by the NJ Department of Community Affairs.*

### LIHEAP (LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM)

LIHEAP is a federally-funded program that helps **low-income households** pay for heating costs of all fuel types and medically-necessary cooling costs. LIHEAP can be reached by calling 800-510-3102 (or 877-652-1148 for rotary phones or out-of-state callers). Starting on October 1, 2020, you can apply online, via email, print an application, or find an application agency near you by visiting [www.energyassistance.nj.gov](http://www.energyassistance.nj.gov).

*LIHEAP is administered by the NJ Department of Community Affairs.*

### LIFELINE

The Lifeline Utility Assistance Program is a state-funded program designed to help eligible **low-income senior citizens and the disabled** with their electric and natural gas utility costs. Apply for Lifeline with the [NJSave application](#). Lifeline can be reached by calling 800-792-9745. For more information, please visit [www.aging.nj.gov](http://www.aging.nj.gov) or [click here](#).

*Lifeline is made possible by NJBPU and is administered by the New Jersey Department of Human Services.*

### PAYMENT ASSISTANCE FOR GAS AND ELECTRIC (PAGE)

PAGE is a state-funded program to help **low- to moderate-income households** in crisis pay their natural gas and electric utility costs. PAGE grants are designed to prevent utility service shut-off or reconnect service. PAGE can be reached by calling 732-982-8710. For more information or to apply online, go to [www.njpoweron.org](http://www.njpoweron.org).

*PAGE is administered by the Affordable Housing Alliance and is made possible by NJBPU and the NJ Department of the Treasury.*

### WINTER TERMINATION PROGRAM

Administered by NJBPU, the Winter Termination Program (WTP) **protects specific categories of customers** from having their gas or electric utilities shut off between **November 15 and March 15** each winter. Households enrolled in specific programs, such as SSI, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, USF, LIHEAP and Lifeline, are eligible for protection under WTP. An additional “catch-all” category is included for people who are unable to pay their utility bills because of circumstances beyond their control, such as unemployment, divorce, or illness. For more information about WTP, call 800-624-0241 or if you are out-of-state, dial 609-341-9188.

## Be a smart consumer, know your rights.

All utility ratepayers in the State of New Jersey are protected by the *Utility Customer's Bill of Rights*, which dictate terms of service and billing.

You can access the Bill of Rights [here](#). If you think your rights have been violated, contact your utility company, or reach out to NJBPU's Customer Assistance team for additional support by calling 800-624-0241 or [filing a complaint online](#).